[Mr. M. Govinda Pillai.]

The increase in the current year's receipt under Scientific and Miscellaneous Departments is special to the year for reasons already explained.

## EXPENDITURE CHARGED TO REVENUE.

11. The expenditure proposed to be made from the revenue of Rs 263·79 lakhs budgeted for the next year has been fixed at Rs 261·09 lakhs. This exceeds the revised estimates for the current year by Rs 4·01 lakhs. The programme of expenditure for the various departments has been subjected to careful scrutiny both by the Government and the Standing Finance Committee of the Legislature and the allotments fixed with due regard to the needs of progressive administration on the one hand and the necessity for rigid economy on the other. I shall now pass on to a brief survey of the more important features of the next year's programme of expenditure.

12. *Land Revenue.* Over and above the provision for the normal activities of the Department, the necessary allotment has been made in the Land Revenue budget for the continuance of certain important special items of work such as the Jenmikaram Settlement Operations, which are nearing completion, the survey of Minor Circuits and the demarcation and survey of encroachments within the Cardamom Hills Reserve. But the one outstanding feature of the Land Revenue budget for the next year, a feature of particular interest to the ryot, is a lump sum provision of Rs 20,000 for working out a scheme for bringing up-to-date the records relating to land, which had of late been falling into arrears owing to a substantial reduction of the Land Records Maintenance staff in 1107 as a measure of retrenchment.

13. *Income Tax.* The Income Tax Department, which had at first been only an adjunct of the Land Revenue Department, but which was separated therefrom and organised as a self-contained unit at the commencement of this year, on a temporary basis under a Deputy Commissioner of Income Tax, is proposed to be made permanent from next year, in view of the appreciable improvements in assessment and collections resulting from the separation. The Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner will, however, continue to excercise superior control over the department as the Chief Revenue authority.

14. *Excise.* It has not yet been possible to arrive at a correct estimate of the work of the special temporary executive staff appointed in 1113 and continued during the current year, for the prevention of smuggling and the conservation of Excise revenue especially in the frontiers; for, though this staff has been in existence for over a year and a half, the effects of their work on the Excise revenue of the State had been considerably vitiated by the concurrent effects of the general political unrest, from which we are just emerging, and it may take some time more for the staff to show their real usefulness. Government, however, feel that the Excise revenues of the State during

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the current year have not come up to the expectations which the department held out at the time of the entertainment of the temporary staff. But as it may not be advisable to disband the entire staff immediately, before waiting sometime more to assess their real usefulness in the improvement of Excise revenue, the temporary staff is proposed to be continued next year also, subject to a reduction to the extent of Rs. 25,000 in the departmental budget. The Excise Commissioner has already been asked to submit definite proposals for reducing the staff to the absolute minimum requirements. The Statistical branch of the department will continue to function next year also with a view to the correct recording and compilation of trade and customs statistics which is of paramount importance to the State and to the commercial public.

15. *Forest.* The House is aware that the Government had secured the services of a specially trained and qualified officer of the Forest Research Institute, Dehra Dun, to advise them on matters relating to exploitation of the resources of their forests. He has already demonstrated in a very practical way the possibilities of making good use of the soft woods of our forests by subjecting them to Ascu treatment. He is now investigating the possibility of making prefabricated bridge and roof trusses using treated timber in lieu of iron and steel. A provision of Rs '68 of a lakh has been made in the forest budget to enable him to carry on his investigations; and it is hoped that ere long the treated soft woods of our forests will find a ready market even outside the State.

16. *General Administration.* An authorised publication, in a form readily available for easy reference, of the various Acts and Proclamations of the State and the amendments issued thereto from time to time has been a long-felt need, especially to Lawyers and Judges. To remove this want, it is proposed to make arrangements for an official compilation of the Laws of the State on the analogy of the Unrepealed Central Acts of the Government of India. A sum of Rs. 10,000 has been provided for the purpose. The temporary staff in the Central Records specially appointed for sorting and listing the old records of the State, many of which are of historical and archaeological interest, will continue to work next year also.

The Stores Purchase Committee will continue to function next year also as a central agency for arranging for the purchase and supply of the stores required for the various departments of the State service. By this centralisation Government hope that it would be possible to obtain the best materials at the cheapest prices. It will also leave the departmental officers free to devote their full time to the departmental work unsaddled by the direct responsibilities for purchase of large stores.

The experience of the past two years has been very encouraging. The aggregate approximate value of the contracts settled by the Stores Purchase Committee has risen from Rs. 11·16 lakhs in 1113 to



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